



Guns, gangs, graffiti gone

What's working

We're reaching out to young people.

- Street outreach really works. We're reaching young people who are fed up and ready for change. We're helping them find help.
- The Little Earth gang intervention project has been successful.

Graffiti prevention and removal are working well.

- Kids are picking up information about graffiti prevention grants and taking responsibility. We're encouraging murals instead of gang-related graffiti.
- Staff work has been amazing. We're using less staff resources and removing graffiti more quickly.

We're reducing crime.

- We've reduced juvenile violence. We're balancing enforcement and prevention.
- Gang enforcement is working: the shooters are getting locked up.

- Our cameras and technology are working. Homicides are down, and the bad guys are getting squeezed.

We're building partnerships and taking a holistic approach.

- The Phillips neighborhood partnership among business, police and probation has made a huge difference.
- The community, businesses and residents are realizing that we need to work together.
- Clean Sweep is a partnership that's working.
- Court Watch is a holistic approach that encompasses aftercare issues, treatments and supportive housing. Everyone is at the table.
- The Franklin Safety Center is working.
- Crime prevention specialists are invaluable to neighborhoods.

What isn't working

We're facing budget cuts, and resources are becoming scarcer.

- The dollars never match up between the time we say we will act and when the money arrives. We're working while waiting for dollars.
- Long-term crime prevention is manpower intensive; at the same time, we still have to do the day-to-day stuff.
- We're creating new programs rather than fully staffing and funding existing programs.
- There are not enough community activities and jobs for kids.
- Young people face hurdles getting treatment or handling mental health concerns.

Police-community relationships are not always working.

- People are scared to trust the police, so they won't help the police.
- There are some wonderful officers and some who just don't get the community connection. People just want to be respected.
- It's frustrating that you can't get to know the cops on the streets. The staff is always changing. Just when you get to know them, they're gone. We're starting over every time.

- I don't want to hamper promotions, but the City shouldn't accept a grant if it won't commit to keeping the same people. Kids can't get to know cops if they change all the time.
- Latino gangs are increasing, and there's no gang reduction plan.

We need better intergovernmental coordination.

- There's a lack of coordination among the County, City and Park and Recreation Board. There's no recognition of how park programs — soccer fields, for example — tie into crime prevention.
- The City doesn't have a place at the table in County parole and probation case management programs.
- We don't know what other agencies are doing when it comes to youth crime prevention. The police and other agencies don't have time to share success stories because they are so busy.

Societal changes create additional challenges.

- Companies employ people, but they aren't part of the community. On the Northside, corporate involvement has been missing for 40 years.
- We've become too anonymous. If no one knows you, you're more likely to harm someone.

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What should be done next

Find ways to share what we're doing.

- Hold an annual conference so we can share what we're doing and learn from each other.
- Create a clearinghouse of available resources.
- Get information out about the Youth Congress and how we can work together.

Focus on strengthening families and community ties.

- Community organizations should visit homes where a family member has been arrested. We need to see how the rest of the family is doing and bring them needed resources.
- When a new gang was forming in the Phillips neighborhood, we went door-to-door to get kids energized about other things to do. Let's institutionalize this approach.
- Give parents credit for being smart, and give them information to help them make healthy lifestyle choices for their families.
- Understand that adults need help raising kids. Building community in our neighborhoods will help prevent crime.
- Encourage corporate involvement in the community — especially on Broadway.

Rethink our approach to crime prevention.

- The City should look at how it splits the Northside and Southside. Crime is not a Northside or Southside thing – it's a

Minneapolis thing. There shouldn't be zip codes where you can't get help.

- Rather than creating something new, let's do the things we're already doing a little better.
- Conduct a gun buyback every year.
- Offer cooking classes and other activities for kids. Start planning summer activities earlier.
- Police need to reach out to families in non-threatening situations to build trust and help residents see that police are just human beings. Do some potluck dinners so people can get to know one another. This may not be cost-effective, but it's "community effective."
- Keep public safety a priority even though budget cuts are coming. Find ways to get more crime prevention specialists.
- Don't promise action if we don't have the money.

Coordinate our efforts.

- The Police Department should utilize school resource officers to visit homes with kids who cause the most problems at school.
- Coordinate the City's legislative agenda with the County's legislative agenda. Neither entity can do it alone.
- Coordinate park and school activities and facilities. It isn't about buildings and programs – it's about people.

" Many cities are trying to hold graffiti to one area, but Minneapolis took a whole city approach. We aren't writing off any neighborhood or Balkanizing this problem. "

- Solid Waste and Recycling employee
